

From: Mark Sandrock
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/28/01 12:43pm
Subject: Re: Microsoft settlement

Hello.

I was stunned to read of the proposed settlement that would allow Microsoft off the hook so cheaply. In my opinion the cost to Microsoft to settle should be much higher, and just as importantly, they should not benefit in any way from the settlement. The cost to Microsoft of donating their software is minimal--it costs them a few dollars to manufacture CD copies of their software, which they then value at many hundreds of dollars.

If they are going to help the schools, let it be a purely MONETARY fine, which the schools may then spend entirely as they see fit--whether for computer equipment, or for other purposes.

As a long time industry observer, I feel that Microsoft has illegally parlayed their Windows monopoly into a near monopoly on office software, and this has cost the consumer many billions of dollars. Note that Microsoft Office sells for \$400 to \$500, whereas comparable products, such as Apple's AppleWorks office suite, sell for less than \$100. Why? Because they can, because they've systematically eliminated any real competition on the Windows platform over decades. Please read the history of Microsoft, and realize that a leopard doesn't change its spots. They'll never change, but they need to pay for what they've done to the computer industry.

Thank you.
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Manager of System Administration